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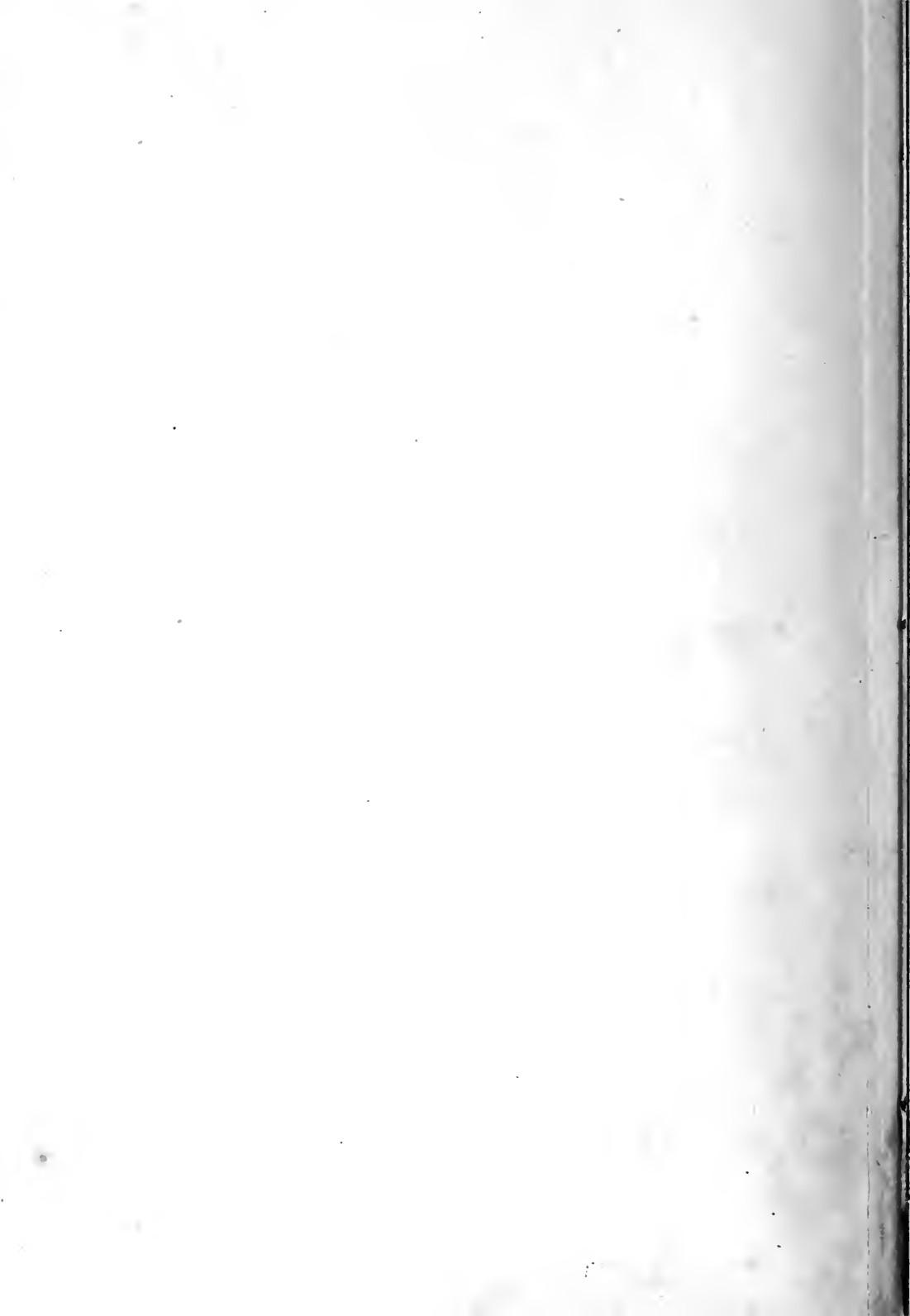


The Amicale Society
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J. Lawton Wealey
June 14th 1888.



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GOLD WAR MEDALS,

AWARDED TO

B R I T I S H

MILITARY & NAVAL FORCES,

FROM

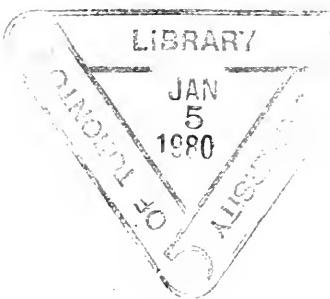
ELIZABETH TO VICTORIA.

BY

J. LAWSON WHALLEY.

LANCASTER :

I. NELSON, PRINTER, 64, MARKET STREET.



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TO

COLONEL THE RIGHT HON.

LORD STANLEY OF PRESTON, G.C.B.,

A.D.C. TO THE QUEEN,

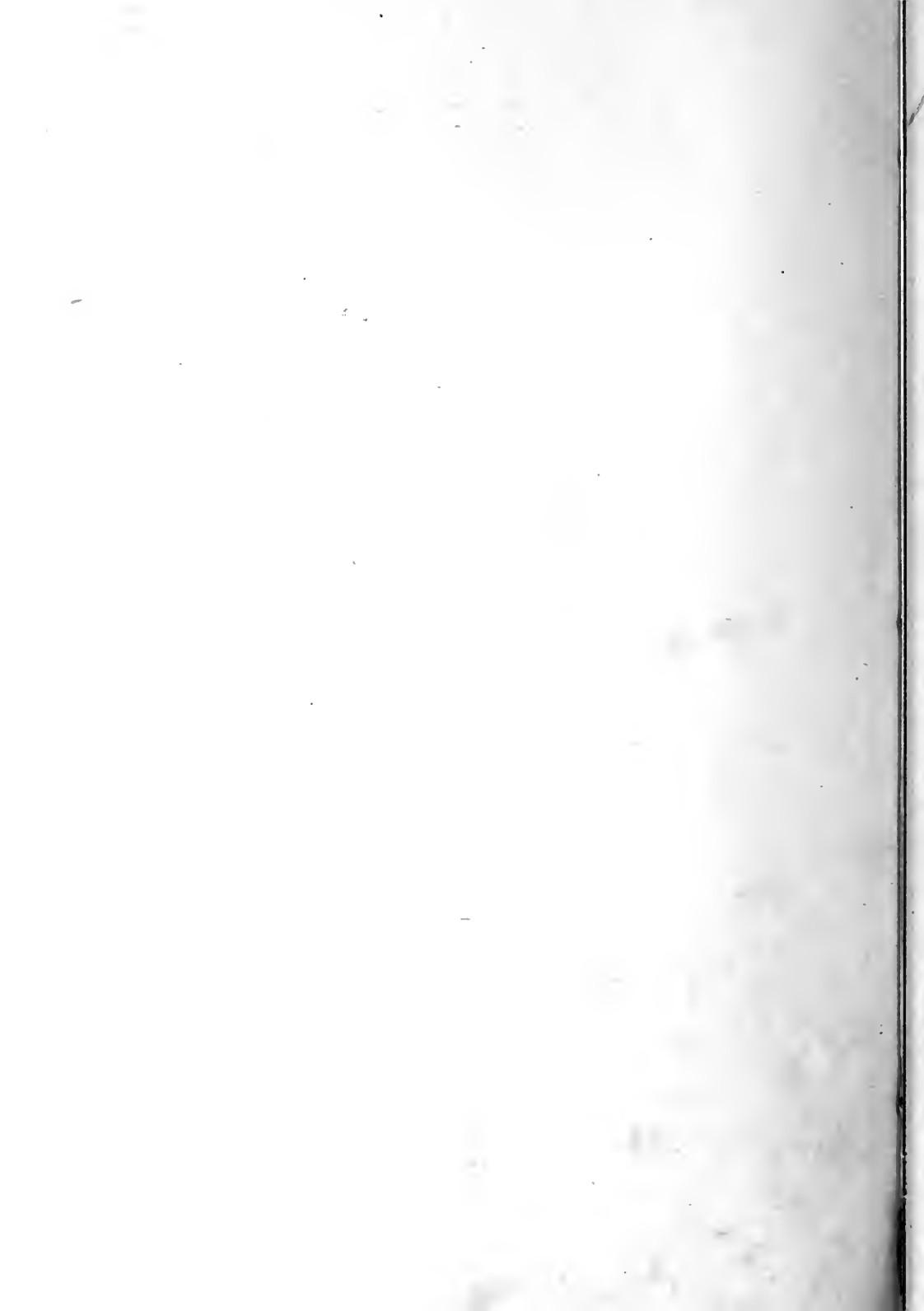
ETC., ETC., ETC.,

THESE FEW PAGES ARE, BY PERMISSION, MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY HIS LORDSHIP'S OBLIGED & OBEDIENT SERVANT,

J. LAWSON WHALLEY, LT. COL. & HON. COLONEL

4TH BATT. THE KING'S OWN ROYAL LANCASTER REGT.



P R E F A C E.

The following pages claim no literary merit, but are simply the result of two hurriedly compiled papers written at the request of a friend several years ago.

Having often been asked to reproduce them in print, I have now decided on doing so, and ask the indulgence of my readers.

J. LAWSON WHALLEY.

Lancaster,

March 1st, 1888.



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MILITARY SERIES.



A PAPER ON GOLD MEDALS

AWARDED TO BRITISH MILITARY FORCES,

*Read before the Members of the Liverpool Numismatic Society,
November 21st, 1878.*

YOUR energetic Secretary, Mr. HARRIS GIBSON, some time ago, requested me to read a short paper on the subject of War Medals. I felt some diffidence in complying with his request, fearing my inability to do justice to the subject ; however, I consented, and have now to ask your kind indulgence for a short time during which I will bring before your notice some Medals which I hope will prove not uninteresting.

A few years ago little or no interest was taken in the subject,—such a thing as a collection of War Medals was unheard of ! Our national Museums ignored their existence, their only value being that of old metal !!

It is grievous now to contemplate the number of mementos of gallant deeds which have found their way into the Refiner's crucible. However, all this is now changed, and here I may add that much of this is due to our friend Mr. GIBSON, who has for many years, as you are well aware, made this branch of Numismatics his study.

Liverpool indeed seems to have been the birthplace of this pursuit, for I believe nearly all the earlier collections were formed in this Town : the late Mr. WHITEHOUSE, of the Bank of England, in a note in his catalogue, thus writes on the subject :— “ Feeling satisfied (says he) that no other country can show an equal amount of gallantry, daring, and brilliancy of action in National achievements, of which each Medal will be a standing memorial for all time, if duly preserved.” You doubtless are all well aware that the majority of War Medals are of silver, and for the most part are well known. I have chosen for my paper this evening the subject of Gold War Medals awarded to British Military Forces.

I had intended to have included those granted to the Navy, but found that I could not bring the subject within the compass of the short time at my disposal. I shall therefore reserve those for a future occasion.

In this paper I propose to include Gold Medals that Foreign Governments have granted our Troops.

The earliest Military Medals of which we have an authentic account were instituted in the reign of Charles I.: many Medals recording Military achievements were doubtless struck before that period, but we have no evidence that they were intended to be worn, but were simply commemorative.

The earlier Medals were chiefly of gold, and were only granted to Officers in command, or others of high rank, and with the single exception of those given for the Battle of Dunbar, there is no record of any Medals having been distributed generally to Officers and Men alike until the issue of the Waterloo Medal.

I propose to illustrate this paper with some gold Medals from my own collection, and where I have been unable to obtain the Medal in gold I will introduce one in silver: without further preface I will now proceed with my subject.

I may here mention that the Medals are measured by the scale of Mionnet.

SIR ROBERT WELCH MEDAL.

The first Medal on my list was that granted by King Charles I. to Sir Robert Welch, Knight, for distinguished services at the battle of Edge Hill.

On Sunday, the 23rd of October, 1642, the battle of Edge Hill was fought, which engagement lasted the greater part of the day, until night terminated the struggle; the opposing armies each retaining their own ground.

The Royalist Cavalry were ably commanded by Prince Rupert. Amongst their number was an Irish Officer named Robert Welch, who distinguished himself by recovering the Royal Standard, which had fallen into the hands of the Parliamentary Forces, and by the capture of two pieces of cannon, together with the Earl of Essex's waggon.

On the morning following the battle Prince Rupert presented Mr. Welch to His Majesty, who was pleased to confer upon him the honor of Knighthood, and further rewarded him by the presentation of a gold Medal, authorised in the following Royal Warrant.

"CHARLES REX,

"Our will and pleasure is that you make a Medal in gold for our trusty and well-beloved Sir Robert Welch, Knight, with our own figure and that of our dearest sonne Prince Charles; and on the reverse thereof to insculp ye form of our Royal Banner used at the battail of Edge Hill, where he did us acceptable service, and received the dignity of Knighthood from us; and to inscribe about it, "PER REGALE

MANDATUM CAROLI REGIS HOC ASSIGNATUR ROBERTO WELCH, MILITI," (By royal mandate of King Charles this is assigned to Robert Welch, Soldier,) and for so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant.

" Given at our Court at Oxford this first day of June 1643.

"To our trusty and well-beloved Thomas Rawlins our graver of Seals and Medals."

The Medal, which is oval, is by Rawlins, and is $13\frac{1}{4}$ by $10\frac{1}{2}$ in size ; on the obverse are the busts of the King and Prince Charles, with the inscription, "CAROLUS REX MAGNÆ BRITANNIÆ, FRANCÆ ET HIBERNIÆ CAROLUS PRINCEPS."

On the reverse is the Royal Standard, with the legend contained in the King's letter.

DUNBAR MEDAL.

We now pass on to the year 1650, when the celebrated battle of Dunbar was fought, upon the 3rd of September. Cromwell with an army of barely 11000 men, totally routed the Scottish Army of double that number under General David Lesley.

Three thousand of the Royalist Army were slain on the spot, and the prisoners numbered ten thousand more, while the Parliamentary force lost only thirty men ; captured, to use Oliver's own words, "all their train, about thirty guns, great and small, besides bullet, match and powder, very considerable officers, about two hundred colours, above ten thousand arms."—*Extract from letter to his brother, Richard Mayor, Esq., 4th of September, 1650.*

A few days after the tidings of the victory reached London, the House of Commons voted that Medals should be prepared and presented to the Officers and Men who had been engaged in this service.

Cromwell's modesty suggested that his effigy should not appear on the Medal ; however this was over-ruled, and Simon, the justly celebrated engraver, was ordered to prepare the Medal, the work of which is very fine. The Medal, which is oval, has upon the obverse a life-like head of the Protector, clad in the armour of the period ; on either side of which is represented a charge of his Ironsides ; while the legend, "THE LORD OF HOSTS' WORD AT DUNBAR, SEPTEMBER YE 3RD, 1650," appears above.

On the reverse the House of Commons is represented during a sitting.

The Officers received small gold Medals, size 6 by $4\frac{3}{4}$, while the Men received larger Medals in silver, size $9\frac{1}{2}$ by $7\frac{1}{2}$.

ROYALIST & PARLIAMENTARY BADGES.

During the unhappy civil war that desolated the kingdom, several gold Medals or Badges were instituted by the Commanders of the Royalist and Parliamentary Forces: those of the latter seem to have been far more profusely distributed; amongst them may be named those given by the following Commanders:—Lord Fairfax, Sir Thomas Fairfax, The Earl of Essex, General Lambert, Lord Kimbolton, Sir William Waller, &c., &c.; but as these seem to have been worn rather as distinctive badges by the partisans of the different Commanders, and not awarded for military merit, I shall pass them over.

During neither the reigns of Charles II. nor James II. were Medals given for military service (although several were given for naval service); however William III. instituted a gold Medal to be worn in memory of Marshal Schomberg, who was killed at the Battle of the Boyne; but as this was commemorative I shall not include it.

The heroes of Blenheim, of Ramilles, of Oudenarde, of Malplaquet, and even the great Marlborough himself, remained undecorated. What a striking contrast to the profuse way in which Medals are distributed now-a-days! Neither were any granted by George I.

George II. however revived the custom, and a Medal was given for the battle of Culloden.

CULLODEN MEDAL.

Culloden was fought on April the 16th, 1746, near Inverness, between an English Army under the Duke of Cumberland and the Scottish adherents of the young Pretender; the latter Force was completely routed with a loss of two thousand five hundred men; while the English loss was under two hundred. After the battle Prince Charlie sought safety in flight.

A gold Medal was struck to commemorate the event; upon the obverse is represented the bust of the Duke of Cumberland, while on the reverse the figure of Apollo stands with a dragon pierced by an arrow at his feet; the legend, “ACTUM EST ILICET PERIET” (It is all over, immediately he will perish,) is above; in the exergue, “PRÆL COLOD, 1746” (Battle of Culloden). A ring is attached to the Medal, which is suspended by a crimson riband with green border.

A fine example of this decoration is represented in the Cabinet of K. Stewart-Mackenzie, Esq., of Seaforth. *

Nicholas states that there exists no account of its ever having been worn, but

the fact of a ring being attached to it seems to imply that it was intended as a personal decoration. Its issue must have been extremely limited, as few specimens of it exist ; in all probability it was only awarded to a few superior Officers and friends of His Royal Highness.

We now come to the series of wars that desolated the Continent of Europe for a period of over twenty years, caused by the restless ambition of Napoleon, and which only terminated on the complete overthrow of his power at Waterloo.

15th LIGHT DRAGOONS—EMPEROR OF GERMANY.

The Medal which I now bring to your notice was conferred by the Emperor Francis II. of Germany upon eight Officers of the 15th Light Dragoons.

On the 24th of April, 1794, the French having assembled in great force at the village of Villiers en Couchie, near Cambray, His Royal Highness the Duke of York determined to attack them ; two squadrons of the 15th greatly distinguished themselves by a most gallant charge, the French being driven back with a loss of three guns and twelve hundred killed and wounded.

The determined conduct of the 15th prevented His Majesty the Emperor of Germany (who was proceeding from Valenciennes to Catillon) from being taken prisoner.

For the service thus rendered to him His Majesty presented each of the Officers of the Regiment present with a gold Medal.

The size of the Medal is 16. On the obverse, bust of the Emperor, with long flowing hair, and the legend, "IMP CÆS FRANCISCUS II. P.F. AUG." ; on the reverse is the legend, "FORTI BRITANNO IN EXERCITU FED AD CAMERACUM, XXIV. APR., MDCCXCIV." (To the brave British Troops in the Allied Army at Cambray, 24th April, 1794.) underneath are two sprigs of laurel.

This Medal was worn from the neck suspended by a massive gold chain.

Subsequently these Officers received the Order of Maria Theresa.

Permission to wear these Medals being granted in the following letter :—

" My Lord.—The Emperor of Germany having been pleased to present each of the Officers of the Fifteenth, or the King's Regiment of Light Dragoons, under your Lordship's command, who distinguished themselves in so gallant a manner by their spirited attack upon the enemy, with a very inferior force, on the 24th of April, 1794, near Cambray, a gold Medal, struck by His Imperial Majesty's Orders, on the occasion, as a particular mark of the sense he entertained of the signal service thereby rendered to the Allied Army ; I have the honour, therefore, by order of His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, to signify to your Lordship His Majesty's pleasure, that the above-mentioned Officers shall be permitted to wear the said Medals constantly with their uniforms, as an honorary

badge of their bravery in the field of action, and an inducement to all other Officers to imitate, on every favourable occasion, their glorious example.

"Signed,

"WILLIAM FAWCETT,

"Adjutant General."

A fine specimen of this almost unique Medal is in the Cabinet of Captain Greg, of Quarry Bank, Handforth * ; was presented to Cornet Butler, of the 15th Hussars.

PIUS THE 6th's MEDAL TO THE 12th LANCERS.

The next Medal I shall notice was one bestowed by Pope Pius the 6th upon several Officers of the 12th Lancers ; although this Medal cannot be called a War Medal in the strict sense of the term : still, as it was awarded in admiration of the "praiseworthy conduct" of British Troops, I think fit to include it.

In 1793 the French Revolution broke out ; the Port of Toulon was delivered up to Admiral Lord Hood, who took possession of it in the name of Louis the 17th.

A French Army however advanced against it, and Toulon was evacuated by the British ; amongst the troops sent out as a relief were the 12th Light Dragoons. As their services at Toulon were no longer required, arrangements were made for attacking the Island of Corsica.

Part of the 12th were landed and were present at the capture of Bastia ; the remainder of the Regiment proceeded to Italy and landed at Civita Vecchia, where the conduct of the Officers and Soldiers attracted the notice of Pope Pius the 6th, whose thanks were communicated by Cardinal de Zelada, Secretary of State to His Holiness in the following letter :—

"Vatican, May 30th, 1794.

"The marked consideration which the Holy Father has always entertained, and never will cease to entertain, for the generous and illustrious English Nation, induces him not to neglect the opportunity of giving a proof of it, which is now afforded by the stay of a British Regiment at Civita Vecchia.

"As His Holiness cannot but applaud the regular and praiseworthy conduct of the Troops in question, he has determined to evince his entire satisfaction by presenting a gold Medal to each of the Officers, including General Sir James Stewart, Bart., Colonel Erskine, though absent ; and since these Medals, twelve in number, are not, at the present moment, in readiness, nor can be provided before the departure of the Regiment from Civita Vecchia, the Holy Father will be careful that they shall be sent, as soon as possible, to Sir John Cox Hippesley, who will be pleased to transmit them to the respective Officers, making them acquainted, at the same time, with the feelings by which his

* This splendid Medal is now in the Eaton collection, having been purchased at the Greg sale for the large sum of £240.

Holiness is animated, and with the lively desire which he entertains of manifesting, on all occasions, his unalterable regard, whether it be towards the Nation in general, or towards every individual Englishman.

"In thus making known to Sir John Cox Hippersley, member of the British Parliament, the dispositions of the Supreme Pontiff, the Cardinal de Zelada, Secretary of State, begs leave to add an offer of his own services, and the assurance of his distinguished esteem."

Some of the Officers proceeded to Rome, and had the honor of being presented with the Medals by his Holiness.

The size of the Medal is $1\frac{1}{2}$; on the obverse is the bust of the Pope, with the legend, "PIUS SEXTUS PONT. MAX. A. XVII." On the reverse is Ceres seated with Cornucopia; legend above the figure, "AGRO POMPTIN COLONIS REST" (On account of the Pontine territory restored to the farmers, i.e. reclaimed from the sea), and the date 1791 in the exergue.

The Medal, however, was not specially struck for the occasion, but seems originally to have been intended to commemorate the Pope's restoration of the harbour of Civita Vecchia to its present state.

SERINGAPATAM MEDAL.

I must now for a short time ask you to turn your thoughts to the Continent of Asia, where brilliant victories were being gained in Hindooostan, by the British and East India Company's Troops over the Forces of Tippo Sultaun.

I believe all the following early Medals of the East India Company were struck in gold—Deccan, Mysore, Ceylon, Seringapatam, Egypt, Java, Isle of France, Nepaul, and the Burmah War Medal; but with the exception of the Seringapatam, which I shall shortly allude to, and the Burmah Medal, there is no record that these were given in gold for military service, but were simply intended as presents to the Members of the Council, Governors of Provinces, and other high Officials.

The Commander of the Forces during the Burmese War received a gold Medal, but as this was the only one conferred I shall not further notice it.

I now return to the year 1799, when Tippo Sultaun's power was finally overthrown by his death, and the capture of Seringapatam, the capital of his Empire.

It was decided that the Town should be taken by storm on the 4th of May: about mid-day the British Troops, under the command of Major General Sir David Baird, advanced from their trenches and stormed the fortifications; after a hotly-contested struggle the outworks were gained, and shortly afterwards the British flag waved proudly from the citadel.

The East India Company conferred a Medal upon each Officer and Man present. The General Officers received the Medal in gold, the Field Officers in silver gilt, Captains and Subalterns in silver, in bronze to the Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Royal Army, while the Sepoys had to content themselves with the Medal in tin.

The Royal Army, however, were not allowed to wear these Medals, until permission was granted by the Prince Regent, in an order dated August 29th, 1815.

The Medal, the size of which is $1\frac{1}{2}$, represents on the obverse the British Lion trampling upon the Bengal Tiger; behind the Lion the British flag is displayed, inscribed in Persian, "The Lion of God is the conqueror;" and in the exergue, the date, "May the 4th, 1799." The reverse contains a representation of the assault upon the citadel, the sun being seen in the meridian. In the exergue, in Persian characters, is inscribed, "The fort of Seringapatam, the gift of God, 4th of May, 1799."

The Medal was originally issued without a suspender; many of the recipients however had one attached, and wore the Medal suspended by a fawn-coloured riband.

A fine specimen of the Medal in gold is in the Cabinet of Captain Greg, of Quarry Bank, Handforth;* the silver specimen which I have the pleasure of showing you was sent to Lieut. Daniel Falla, 61st Regiment, (afterwards Colonel Falla,) in memory of his eldest brother, Lieut. Thomas Falla, of the 12th Regiment, who fell in the assault.

SULTAN'S EGYPT.

In the year 1800 Egypt was held by a French Army. The British Government fearing that the conquest of India was the ultimate design of the French, determined to send an expeditionary Army against them.

The Chief Command was intrusted to the veteran General Sir Ralph Abercromby: after much delay, the force landed near Alexandria, on the 8th of March, 1801.

Upon the 21st of the same month the battle of Alexandria was fought, which ended in the total defeat of the French, but was purchased by the loss of the gallant old Sir Ralph, who fell mortally wounded. After several other engagements of a minor character, the French were compelled to evacuate Egypt in September of the same year.

The Grand Seignior, with a view to perpetuate the signal service rendered to the Ottoman Empire, caused a Palace to be built at Constantinople for the future residence of the British Ambassador, and ordered that gold Medals should be struck for each Officer, both naval and military, who had taken part in the Expedition.

The obverse of the Medal contains a crescent and star of eight points, encircled by an ornamental border; on the reverse is the Sultan's cypher, surrounded by a similar border, into which is introduced the date 1801; it is suspended to an orange-coloured riband by a small gold chain and hook.

The Medal was granted in three distinct sizes. First, $13\frac{3}{4}$, to General Officers of the Army and Admirals of the Navy; second size, $12\frac{1}{2}$, to Field Officers of the Army and Captains R. N.; third size, $10\frac{1}{2}$, to Captains and Subalterns of the Army and Lieutenants R.N. The design of the Medals being the same in all classes.

The three Medals which I show you are from my own collection, the smallest one having been awarded to Lieut. Daniel Falla, 61st Regt.,* whom I have previously mentioned; he also, in 1848, received the silver War Medal with Egyptian clasp.

MAIDA MEDAL.

In July, 1806, Major General Sir John Stewart with a force of about five thousand men effected a landing in Calabria; hearing that the French forces under General Reynier were encamped near Maida, ten miles from the place of landing, he determined to give them battle, although they were in superior force by over two thousand five hundred men.

Upon the morning of the 4th of July General Stewart advanced across the plain, and came into full view of the French Army, who were posted on a hill above the village of Maida.

General Reynier perceiving the British, advanced his force across the river, and skirmishing soon commenced; after a few rounds the firing was suspended, and each army in compact order advanced until bayonets began to cross; at that moment the British cheer was heard as they rushed forward: the hitherto invincible veterans of Napoleon hesitated, they turned and fled, and Maida was won! with a loss to the French of three thousand men.

In commemoration of the victory a gold Medal was ordered to be struck, and conferred upon the superior Officers who were present. Its distribution was limited to the Commander of the Forces, Officers in command of Brigades and Battalions, or to those who succeeded to the command, and also to the Deputy Quarter Master General; and was worn from the button-hole of their uniform by a red riband with blue edges.

The Medal, which is size 11, bears upon the obverse a laureated head of His Majesty George III., under the head the legend, "GEORGII TERTII REX." Upon the reverse, Britannia is standing brandishing a spear in her right hand; on her

left rests a shield charged with the crosses of the Union banner ; a figure of victory flying is crowning her with laurel ; behind her is the triquetra, the ancient symbol of Sicily (similar to the three legs of Man). In front of the figure is inscribed, "MAIDA, JULY IV., 1806." As very few Officers received the Medal it is consequently of the greatest rarity.

PENINSULA LARGE MEDAL.

The history of the Peninsula War is so associated with the name of Wellington, and so well known, that it would be a useless task for me to repeat the oft told tale of the glorious achievements of the greatest soldier of the age ; how step by step he drove the Legions of the Great Napoleon from the heart of Spain, over the Pyrenean range, until he had planted the British Standard on the ramparts of Toulouse.

For these glorious services the Government ordered a gold Medal to be prepared, which was awarded to General Officers only. Besides the victories in Portugal, Spain, and France, the Medal was also given to the General Officers who commanded the forces at the capture of Java from the Dutch, and the seizure of Martinique and Guadaloupe from the French ; while the American War is represented by two actions, Fort Detroit and Chrystler's Farm. No large Medal seems to have been awarded for the action at Chateauguay.

The following are the engagements for which the Medal was granted : Rolica and Vimiera, Sahagun and Benevente, Corunna, Martinique, Talavera, Guadaloupe, Busaco, Barrosa, Fuentes D'Onor, Albuhera, Java, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, Fort Detroit, Vittoria, Pyrenees, St. Sebastian, Nivelle, Chrystler's Farm, Nive, Orthes, Toulouse.

The following is a description of the Medal : size 12 ; on the obverse is depicted Britannia, with helmet on head, seated upon the globe, her right hand extended, holding a wreath of laurel, and in her left a palm branch ; on her right side is the British Lion, and on her left the Union shield. The reverse bears a wreath of laurel, within which the name of the action for which it was awarded is inscribed. The recipient's name and rank are engraved upon the edge.

The Medal was ordered to be worn from the neck by a broad crimson riband with blue edges, but on ordinary occasions Officers were allowed to wear it from the button-hole as a more convenient mode.

PENINSULA SMALL MEDAL.

The small gold Peninsula Medal was awarded for exactly the same services as the larger Medal, with the exception that those Officers who served at Chateauguay

received the Medal : it was given to Commanders of Battalions, or to those Officers who succeeded to the command in consequence of casualties, Officers commanding Artillery and Engineers, Adjutant and Quarter Master Generals, Military Secretary, etc., etc.

The Medal and riband are similar to the larger one, except the size, which is $9\frac{1}{2}$, and it was ordered to be worn upon all occasions from the button-hole.

In consequence of the number of victories achieved by our Army, Officers soon became entitled to several of these decorations, which was found to be inconvenient : for a short time it appears that several engagements were recorded upon each Medal : in April, 1813, however, it was decreed that a clasp should be granted for subsequent services. These clasps, which are of gold, are nearly two inches in length by five-eights in breadth, and bear the name of the action, surrounded by a wreath of laurel in high relief.

The Medal from my own collection which I have the pleasure of showing you was granted to Captain William Balvaird, 95th Foot (now the Rifle Brigade)* : he commanded the 3rd Battalion of that distinguished Corps at the battles of Nivelle and Nive ; he was also present at Busaco, Fuentes D'Onor, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, and Pyrenees, for which services he received the Silver War Medal with six clasps.

He afterwards attained the rank of Colonel and was granted the Order of the Bath.

PENINSULA GOLD CROSS.

When an Officer who had two Clasps to his Medal became entitled to a third, a gold Cross was substituted ; this is a most beautiful decoration, the weight of which is one ounce sixteen pennyweights ; size, $11\frac{1}{2}$; both sides being alike. The cross is of the form termed Maltese, having in the centre, in high relief, a Lion statant ; in each limb or division of the Cross is the name of a battle, surrounded by an edge of laurel. The Cross is attached to the swivel by a large ring, richly chased. General Officers wore it from the neck by a broad crimson and blue riband, Field and other Officers from the button-hole.

For subsequent actions, clasps of the same description as those on the gold Medals were added.

It may here be of interest to state the number of these gold decorations which were conferred.

Medal only 469 : with one clasp 143 : with two 72. Gold Cross 61 : with one

clasp 46; two clasps 18; three 17; four 8; five 7; six 3; seven 2; while only one received 9 clasps, which were on the Cross worn by the Duke of Wellington for thirteen general engagements.

The example which I show you is from my own collection, and bears the names of the following battles: Talavera, Nive, Orthes, Toulouse, with two clasps for Pyrenees and Nivelle. It was granted to the widow of the late Lieut. Colonel John Robert Coghlan, of the 61st Regiment,* at the earnest solicitation of the Duke of Wellington.

Colonel Coghlan commanded the 61st throughout nearly the whole of the War, and fell at the head of his Regiment in the last charge at Toulouse. "His body was interred on the field of battle, but by order of the Duke it was removed and honoured with a public funeral, the Duke himself attending to pay the last tribute of respect to departed valour. A marble slab, placed by his brother Officers in the Protestant Churchyard at Toulouse, marks the spot where the remains of the gallant Officer are deposited."

I extract these last few lines from the records of the Regiment.

PALAMOS MEDAL.

In September, 1810, a British Expedition was sent in aid of the Spanish Patriots who were endeavouring to expel the French from Catalonia; the Supreme Juneta of Spain awarded Medals to the Officers and Men engaged in this service: a few of the superior Officers received it in gold.

A fine example of this Medal in gold is in the Seaforth Cabinet; it was given to the late Lieut. General Sir Charles William Doyle, G.C.H., K.C.B. The Medal from my own collection is in silver, and belonged to William Daniels, Royal Marines, H.M.S. Cambrian.

The size of the Medal is $1\frac{1}{2}$; upon the obverse are the shields of Great Britain and Spain, surrounded by their respective flags: below the shields are the words "ALIANZA ETERNA," the whole being surrounded by a wreath of laurel. On the reverse is the inscription "GRATITUD D ESPANA A LA INTERPIDEZ BRITANICA," "BAGUR, 10 DE SETIEMBRE, PALAMOS, 14 DE SETIEMBRE, 1810." The Medal was worn by a red ribbon with yellow edges.

LIEUT. LATHAM'S MEDAL.

No more gallant action was performed during the Peninsula War than that of Lieut. Latham, 3rd Buffs, who, at the battle of Albuhera, preserved the King's colour

from falling into the enemy's hands. The colour was carried by Ensign Walsh, and the escort being all killed or wounded, Ensign Walsh was made prisoner; at that moment Lieut. Latham rushed forward, seized the colour, which he defended with heroic gallantry: surrounded by a crowd of assailants all eager for the honor of its capture, he clung with energetic tenacity to his precious charge.

A French Hussar seized the staff, and rising in his stirrups aimed a blow at Latham's head; this failed to cut him down, although it sadly mutilated his face; still his undaunted spirit would not yield; a second sword-cut completely severed his left arm from the body; he then seized the staff with his right hand, exclaiming, "I will only surrender it with my life."

He was now defenceless, but still would not yield; the number of his foes increased until he was trampled upon, but as he lay, he managed to conceal the colour under his body; at that moment the British Cavalry came up, and the French Troops fled.

The Fusilier Brigade advancing, found Lieut. Latham apparently dead with the colour under him; however he revived, and was carried to the rear soon afterwards.

The Officers of the Buffs, in admiration of his heroic conduct, subscribed one hundred pounds, with which a gold Medal was purchased, and presented to him at Reading the following August.

The Medal, which is size 15, bears upon it the representation of his defence of the colour, surmounted by a royal Crown and the words, "ALBUHERA, 16 MAY, 1811," while the memorable words, "I WILL SURRENDER IT ONLY WITH MY LIFE," surrounds the whole.

The King shortly afterwards graciously granted permission to Lieut. Latham to wear this Medal.

REGIMENTAL MEDALS.

Before the introduction by William 4th, in 1831, of the Medal for Long Service and Good Conduct, and even after that period, numerous Medals were given to the Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of several Regiments as rewards for gallantry in the field, faithful service, and good conduct.

As a rule these were presented by the Officers, but in some instances by the Men themselves; they are termed Regimental Medals. As a few are of gold I will introduce one or two of them.

An exceedingly interesting one is in the Seaforth collection, given to a Quarter-Master Sergeant of the 20th Regiment.

The obverse has the number 20 surmounted by a Royal Crown, in the centre

a Sphinx, on either side the words, "OMNIA AUDAX," the whole surrounded by a wreath of laurel. The reverse is inscribed, "For highly meritorious conduct during a period of 18 years, June 13th, 1838. Minden, Egmont op Zee., Egypt, Maida, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Orthes, Toulouse, Peninsula, Vittoria, Corunna, xx." The edge is inscribed, "xx Regiment, to John Dorrington, Quarter-Master Sergeant, presented by his Brethren in Arms."

I have in my own collection a small Medal of an earlier date, that of the Manchester and Salford Volunteers; its size is $10\frac{1}{2}$, and bears upon the obverse the bust of George III., with the initials G. R. on either side of the head, encircled by a chain composed of hearts and hands. The reverse is inscribed, "Captain John Douglas, Royal Light Horse, Manchester and Salford Volunteers; a testimony of gratitude from his fellow Townsmen for spirited and patriotic services, 1802."

ST. JEAN D'ACRE MEDAL.

The next Medal that I shall notice is termed the St. Jean D'Acre Medal, for services on the coast of Syria in 1840. This more properly belongs to the Naval series, but as some Artillery and Engineer Officers accompanied the Expedition and received the Medal, I shall include it.

Mehomit Ali, the Pacha of Egypt, having virtually thrown off his allegiance to the Sublime Porte by retaining possession of the Egyptian Fleet at Alexandria, the Court of London, acting in conjunction with those of Austria, Russia, and Prussia, sent a force to aid the Porte in reducing the Pacha to subjection.

The British Fleet was under the command of Admiral Sir Robert Stopford; who with the assistance of some Austrian and Turkish Men of War, reduced the whole coast into subjection, the town of Acre being bombarded and taken.

The Sultan issued a small Medal as a mark of favour towards the British Officers. In gold for those ranking with Field Officers, in silver for Quarter-Deck and Warrant Officers, and in copper for Petty Officers, Seamen, and Marines.

The Medal is size 8; on the obverse is a Fort with a Turkish flag flying, above are six stars, below the Turkish inscription, "The People of Syria and the Citadel of Acre, A.H. 1258." The reverse bears the Sultan's cypher, surrounded by a wreath of laurel. The Medal is worn by a red riband, edged with white.

I illustrate this Medal by one in silver from my own collection, given to William Leitch, Assistant Surgeon, H.M.S. Hydra.

DANUBE MEDAL.

I now come to the last series of Medals that I shall bring before your notice, being those awarded by the Sultan of Turkey to several of our Officers for services during the Russian War of 1854-55-56; they are three in number.

The General Service Medal, or as it is commonly but incorrectly called, the Danube Medal, was awarded in gold to Captain, now General Sir John Lintorn Simmons, R.E., K.C.B., and to Commander H. Carr Glyn, R.N., and in silver to sixteen Men of the Royal Engineers and the Crew of a Gun-boat for services at the Sulina mouth of the Danube, in July and August, 1854.

The size of the Medal is 9; on the obverse is the Sultan's cypher within a beaded circle, star and crescent above; on either side are flags and laurel branches. The reverse has a large elliptical star studded with smaller stars of six points, under which are the words, in Turkish, "MARK," or "MEDAL OF DISTINCTION."

SILISTRIA MEDAL.

For the defence of Silistria a gold Medal was given to the late Lieut. Colonel Nasmyth and other Officers; on the obverse is represented the city of Silistria; on the reverse the Sultan's cypher within a wreath of oak and laurel.

KARS MEDAL.

The Kars Medal was given to Sir Fenwick Williams, Bart., of Kars G.C.B., Colonel Lake, R.E., and Lieut. Teesdale, R.A., for the heroic defence of Kars.

The size of the Medal is $10\frac{1}{2}$; the city of Kars is represented on the obverse, while the reverse is the same as the preceding Medal.

The riband for these three latter Medals is the same,—crimson with green edges. I show you silver specimens of the Danube and Kars Medals.

I have now brought my paper to a conclusion, having described (but I fear very imperfectly) the Gold War Medallie issue of the past two hundred years.

The presentation of Gold Medals has long ceased in our Army, but this has been replaced by a better system,—that of the general distribution of Silver Medals, which our Officers and Men now receive alike: the Medal given to the Commander of the Forces differs not from that of the Drummer Boy.

But of one thing we may rest assured that whether our Medals be of Gold, Silver, or even of Copper! the valour of the British Soldier will ever remain the same, and the descendants of the veterans of Marlborough, Lake, Abercromby, and Wellington will always prove themselves worthy of their distinguished forefathers.

I conclude with Lord Lytton's well-known lines :

"What is a ribbon worth to a soldier?
Everything! Glory is priceless!"



N A V A L S E R I E S .

A PAPER ON GOLD MEDALS

AWARDED TO BRITISH NAVAL FORCES,

*Read before the Members of the Liverpool Numismatic Society,
January 16th, 1879.*

I PURPOSE to read this evening my second paper on Gold War Medals ; upon a former occasion I had the pleasure of bringing before your notice those which were awarded to our Military Forces ; I also included Medals given by Foreign Powers. I shall now attempt to describe those granted for Naval Service.

Although a Navy existed in England from a very early period, long before the Nation possessed a standing Army, still the custom of granting rewards by the presentation of Medals only dates in the Navy two reigns prior to that in which they were given to the Land Forces.

In the previous portion of my paper, I mentioned that Charles I. instituted the first reward of the kind to the Army, while Queen Elizabeth is the first sovereign on record who granted similar marks of distinction to the Navy.

As a rule these decorations were worn from the neck, suspended by a chain, but Sir Harris Nicholas in his History of Medals states, that the earlier Medals were often worn in the hat or bonnet, perhaps this may account for the fact that in most old portraits of distinguished warriors Medals are seldom or ever seen as decorations.

As many of the Naval Gold Medals which I shall describe are unique, and all are of great rarity, I regret I shall be only able in one or two instances to show you the Medal in gold, but in other cases I shall substitute silver ones in their place.

Having thus briefly introduced the subject, I will now proceed to describe the first Medal on my list.

ELIZABETH.

(ARK IN FLOOD MEDAL.)

This Medal was granted by Queen Elizabeth, but for what particular service there seems to be no record : Pinkerton in his Medallie History states that it was evidently

given as a mark of favour to distinguished Sea Officers, while others are of opinion that it was conferred for services against the Spanish Armada, while others aver that it was simply an honorary badge : however, as it has a ring for suspension, there can be little doubt that it was intended to be worn.

This Medal, which is oval, is size 15 by 13½ ; upon the obverse is a fine portrait of the Queen with the usual large ruff, and finely embroidered stomacher, with the legend, "ELIZABETH. D. G. ANGLIE. F. ET. HI. REG." Around the head.

Upon the reverse is represented the Ark upon the flood, surrounded by the legend, "PER. UNDAS. SEVAS. TRANQUILLA." (Calm amidst the fierce waves). The silver specimen which I show you was purchased by me some years ago at a sale of duplicates from the British Museum.*

JAMES I.

(ARK IN FLOOD MEDAL.)

A similar Medal to the last was struck by James I. evidently for a like purpose ; the size is the same ; upon the observe is the head of the King, with the legend, "JACOBUS. D. G. MAG. BRITA. FR. ET. HI. REX."

Upon the reverse is the Ark, with the legend, "STET. SALVVS. IN. VNDIS." (May it be safe on the waves).

A fine specimen of this Medal in silver is in the collection of Captain Cleghorn, of Cheltenham ; as so little is known of these Medals, I shall pass them by without further comment.

CHARLES I.

During the unfortunate reign of Charles I. the Navy seem to have been almost unemployed ; the unhappy internal troubles of the Country seem to have so occupied the public mind that naval affairs claimed little or no attention ; at any rate I can find no record of any Medal having been given for Naval service during this reign.

The late Dr. Fleming however in his interesting Catalogue states that there was one given "For Meritorious Naval Services," but as it is not to my knowledge mentioned elsewhere, I am unable to give further particulars concerning it.

COMMONWEALTH.

During the Commonwealth however the Navy was again employed on active service, and at no period of our naval annals was the supremacy of the sea so well maintained as during the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell.

* This Medal is now in the collection of Mr. Ready, British Museum.

The names of Blake, Monk, and Penn will always hold an honoured place on our roll of Sea Officers.

When the great Dutch Admiral Van Tromp proudly sailed with a broom at his mast head (signifying that he would sweep the English from the sea), Blake returned the compliment by flying a whip at his, letting the Dutch know what they had to expect if they came across him. Curiously enough this same whip has ever since remained the distinguishing mark of a British War Ship.

SIX SHIP MEDAL.

The first action for which a Medal was given seems to have been on the night of the 31st of July, 1650, between a small English Ship of twenty-two guns, commanded by Captain Robert Wyard ; and six Dutch Frigates ; upon their attacking him they exclaimed “For King Charles the second, you roundhead dogs!”

The unequal action was gallantly maintained by the little ship until three o'clock the following afternoon, when the frigates having suffered severely, they allowed the gallant little twenty-two gun ship to proceed to Yarmouth.

To reward Captain Wyard, the Parliament at once ordered a Gold Medal to be struck and presented to him ; the Medal, which is oval, is size 12 by 10 ; upon the obverse is an Anchor and Cable, having two shields suspended from the beam ; one is charged with St. George's Cross, the other with the Irish Harp ; above is the appropriate word, “MERUISTI.”

Upon the reverse is represented the engagement with the following legend above, “SERVICE DONE AGAINST SIX SHIPS, JULY YE XXXI AND AUGUST YE 1, 1650.”

BLAKE MEDAL.

On the 31st of July, 1653, the decisive action of the War was fought between the English fleet, under Admirals Blake, Penn, Monk, and Lawson, and the Dutch under Admiral Van Tromp ; after three days manœuvring, Tromp, who had maintained the advantage of keeping the wind, bore down upon the British fleet, and the battle began with so much fury that many ships were soon dismasted and others sunk.

During the fight, Tromp, perceiving that three English Ships had run foul of each other, sent in a fire ship, which arrived so precisely in time, that they all took fire at the same moment and blew up with a terrific report.

Nevertheless the English Fleet sustained, with incredible valour, all the efforts of the Dutch, and were seen to perish rather than give way : Van Tromp then decided to

attack the English Admiral, but when on the point of grappling his ship, the gallant Dutch Admiral fell, mortally wounded.

This disaster damped the courage of the Dutch, and a general retreat commenced closely followed by the English. However they found safety in the Texel.

The loss of the Dutch was twenty-six ships, and over six thousand men killed, wounded, and prisoners, while the English Fleet sustain'd a loss of three ships only and thirteen hundred men killed and wounded.

This decisive victory induced the Dutch to negotiate a peace, which was shortly afterwards concluded on Cromwell's own terms.

On the 8th of August the House of Commons passed the following resolutions :

"Resolved, on Mr. Mayer's report from the Council of State, that two gold chains, to the value of £300 apiece, may be made and given to General Blake and General Monk, as a mark of favour from the Parliament, and a token of their good acceptance of the eminent services performed by them against the Dutch; and that a chain, to the value of £100, may be made and given to Vice Admiral Penn, and one of the same value to Rear Admiral Lawson, upon the same consideration.

"That the four Flag Officers have chains given them of £40 apiece; and that the former sum of £960 be made up to £2,000, to be given in Medals amongst the Officers of the Fleet, as a mark of the Parliament's favour and good acceptance of their service, in such manner as the Commissioners of the Admiralty, by advice with the Generals of the Fleet, shall think fit."

This Medal, which is size $14\frac{1}{2}$ by 14, is a magnificent specimen of Medallic art; the obverse contains a representation of the battle, surrounded by a highly ornamental border formed of the prow and stern of the enemy's principal ship, with the Dutch colours, masts, guns, etc., together with the shields of arms of the states.

The reverse bears an anchor and cable, with two shields from the beam, containing the Crosses of Saint George and Saint Andrew, while below is seen the Irish shield, charged with the Harp; it is surrounded by a border almost similar in design to that on the obverse.

I illustrate this Medal with an electrotype copy, taken by Mr. Ready of the British Museum, from the original Medal, given to Admiral Blake, which was purchased by his late Majesty King William the fourth, at the price of one hundred and fifty guineas, and is now deposited in the Museum.

Another of these Medals is in the fine collection formed by the late Captain Hamilton, of Charles Street, St. James.*

* The late Duke of Buccleuch purchased this Medal at the Hamilton sale for £350.

Some of the junior Officers received the same Medal, but of a smaller size, being in the centre, without the ornamental border, a fine example of one of these Medals is in the Cabinet of J. Kermack Ford, Esq., of Southsea.

TRIUMPH MEDAL.

During the preceding engagement, the "Triumph," which had borne the flag of Admiral Blake in several of the hard-fought battles with the Dutch in 1652 and 1653, unfortunately took fire. The danger was so imminent that most of her crew threw themselves into the sea.

By the exertions of the few who remained the flames were got under and the ship saved.

The Parliament were so pleased that their favourite vessel was preserved that they ordered Medals to be given to the Commander and several of the crew.

These Medals are almost similar to the centre part of the large Medal just described, but on the obverse over the representation of the battle is the inscription, "FOR EMINENT SERVICE IN SAVING Y. TRIUMPH FIRED IN FIGHT W. Y. DUTCH FLEET IN JULY, 1653."

SMALL MIRUISTI.

There is another small Medal, size $5\frac{1}{4}$ by $4\frac{1}{2}$; upon the obverse of which is the Anchor with the two shields of England and Ireland, with the word "MIRVISTI" above; upon the reverse is a representation of the House of Commons during a sitting there is however no record to show for what particular service this Medal was awarded.

I believe a specimen of this Medal is to be seen in the collection of Mr. Ford, of Southsea.

CHARLES II.

During the reign of Charles the second, the Navy were on several occasions engaged in actions with the Dutch Fleet, and in more than one of these the Duke of York (the future James the second) greatly distinguished himself.

A number of Medals were struck to commemorate these victories, but they hardly come within the scope of this paper.

Although during this reign, Medals do not seem to have been given for any particular service that we are aware of, still there are two that were evidently awarded to distinguished sea Officers for their conduct in battle, and therefore I shall include them.

NOS PENES IMPERIUM.

The first of these is a beautiful little oval Medal by Roettier, size 12 by 11; upon the obverse is a finely executed bust of Charles the second in armour, with long flowing hair, the head being crowned with a wreath of laurel: the whole surrounded by the legend, "CAROLUS. II. D. G. M. BR. FR. ET. H. REX."

On the reverse is represented a Ship of War, at the main-mast head of which a flag is flying, charged with the initials "C. R." on the upper side of the Medal are the words, "NOS. PENES. IMPERIUM." (The Empire of the sea is with us).

The silver specimen which I have the pleasure of showing you is from my own collection.*

PRO TALIBUS AVSIS.

The other is a large Medallion, size 16½; upon the obverse is represented a fine laureated head of the King, with the usual legend, "CAROLVS. SECUNDVS. D. G. MAG. BR. FRAN. ET. HIB. REX."

The reverse is one of, if not the *finest* specimen of Medallic art that occurs in the whole series of British Medals.

The King is represented, attired as a Roman General, standing upon the shore, holding a truncheon in his hand, as if giving command; in the distance the fleet is seen, evidently just after a successful engagement; as a wreck appears in the foreground, while in the sky clouds are most beautifully represented; in the exergue are the words, "PRO. TALIBVS. AVSIS." (For such attempts).

There are two types of this Medal, but the difference is so slight between them that it is needless for me to describe the other, which is rather smaller and of inferior workmanship.

I illustrate this Medal with a silver specimen from my own collection.

JAMES II.

During the short and unhappy reign of James the second his subjects had few opportunities of distinguishing themselves against the enemy; and consequently no Medals were awarded for naval exploits, although there is a Medallion that some suppose was given as a mark of naval distinction. As this is a fine Medal I will briefly describe it.

* Now in the Ready collection, B.M.

GENUS ANTIQUUM.

It is by Roettier; size 17; upon the obverse is a fine portrait of James the second with long flowing hair, and the legend, " JACOBUS. II. DEI. GRA. ANG. SCOT. FRAN. ET. HIB. REX."

On the reverse is represented a trophy of arms, and flags placed over the globe; in the distance is seen a naval engagement, while above the trophy are the words, "GENVS ANTIQVM." (Of an ancient race).

I show you a fine specimen of this Medal in silver.

WILLIAM AND MARY.

However, during the next reign, that of William and Mary, the navy had many opportunities of distinguishing itself, and the practice of granting Medals became so general that it was expressly provided for by the legislature.

In 1692 an act of Parliament was passed "for prohibiting all trade and commerce with France, and for the uncouragement of privateers;" the tenth clause of which provided, that, "in all cases where the prize shall not be taken by any Private Man of War, one-tenth part thereof, after such sale and deduction of their Majesties' Customs as aforesaid (and before any division of the proceed thereof shall be made as aforesaid) shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Navy for the time being, which said tenth part shall be separated and kept apart by the said Treasurer of the Navy, and shall be disposed of from time to time by Warrant of the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral, or Lord High Admiral for the time being, for Medals and other rewards for Officers, Marines, and Seamen, in their Majesties' service at sea, who shall be found to have done any signal or extraordinary service."

This seems to have been the first instance in the annals of the Navy where Medals were intended to be presented to both Officers and Men.

An opportunity soon presented itself for this resolution to be carried into effect, by the signal victory of the combined English and Dutch fleets over that of France off Cape La Hogue.

LA HOGUE MEDAL.

On the morning of the 19th of May, 1692, the combined fleets, under the command of Admiral Lord Edward Russel, consisting of ninety-nine Ships, with seven thousand guns, and manned by forty thousand six hundred men, were cruising off the Isle of Wight, when a French fleet was descried to the westward, which afterwards was found to consist of seventy ships, under the command of Admiral de Tourville.

At 8 a.m. line of battle was formed ; the wind, which was from the south-west, was gradually falling light, so that the French fleet could easily have delayed the engagement ; but De Tourville gallantly waving the evidently superior force of the English and Dutch fleets, prepared to give battle.

At half-past ten o'clock the French were observed to bear away together.

While the French fleet were thus coming into action, Admiral Russell ordered that the English fire should not commence until De Tourville should have chosen his own distance.

Soon after the action began ; and was kept up with great spirit on both sides for an hour and a half, by which time the Soleil Royal, French flag ship, was so much cut up in sails, rigging, and spars, that she ceased firing, and had to be towed out of the action.

The rapidity of the English fire greatly astonished the French, one of their Officers afterwards declaring that the English fired three times while they fired twice.

The action ceased for the night at half-past nine o'clock, four of the enemy's ships having been burnt by fire ships.

In the course of the night the fleet weighed anchor, and sailed to the north-west, in the hope of falling in with the French fleet the following morning ; in this they were successful,—a portion of the enemy's fleet, of thirty-eight sail, were descried nine miles off ; a general chase ensued, which was kept up until evening, when both fleets again anchored.

During the darkness the French fleet escaped unobserved, and sought shelter in the Race of Alderney, and three succeeded in making Cherbourg, while three others, including the flagship Soleil Royal, ran aground on the French coast, and were afterwards destroyed by the Dutch Admiral. The remainder of the enemy's fleet entered La Hogue.

On the morning of the 23rd instant, Admiral Russel collected his fleet, and entered the harbour, but found the depth of water too shallow for his large ships ; he then ordered an attack by boats, and after a severe fight succeeded in destroying the whole of the sixteen ships that had taken shelter there.

This important service had the effect of seating William III. more firmly upon the throne, the destruction of that fleet having completely dissipated the hopes of James.

Lediard, in his Naval History states, "that no sooner was Queen Mary informed of this victory, than she sent a gratuity of thirty thousand pounds down to Portsmouth to be distributed amongst the seamen and soldiers, and ordered Medals to be struck for tokens of honor to the Officers."

Although several Medals were struck to commemorate this great victory, only one of them is known to have been bestowed as a personal decoration.

The Medal which was presented to Admiral Russel and his brave companions is size $13\frac{3}{4}$; on the obverse are the effigies of King William and Queen Mary, with the inscription, "GUL. ET. MAR. D. G. M. B. F. ET. H. REX. ET. REGINA."

On the reverse is a representation of the fight: an English ship of the line is seen engaging the French Admiral De Tourville in the Soleil Royal, other ships being seen in the distance; above this are the words, "NOX. NULLA. SECUTA. EST."

And in the exergue, "PUGN. NAV. INT. ANG. ET. FR. 21. MAY, 1622."

This Medal was also conferred upon John Tupper, Esq., of Guernsey, for having opportunely conveyed to Admiral Russel at Spithead, intelligence of the French fleet being at sea; and the Medal, together with a massive gold chain attached, was still (in 1842) in the possession of his descendant, John Elisha Tupper, Esq., of the Cotils, in Guernsey, who, in 1826, obtained permission to bear a representation of this Medal and chain, as an honourable augmentation of his Arms and Crest.

I illustrate this Medal with a silver specimen from my own collection, purchased some few years ago at a sale held at Messrs. Christy's and Manson's.*

But here I hope my audience will pardon me if, for a few moments, I claim their attention while I allude to a couple of Medals that were presented to others than members of the Royal Navy. I copy the following extract from Sir Harris Nicholas' History of Medals:

"In 1695, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty ordered a Gold Chain and Medal of the value of £50 to be given to William Thompson, the master of a small hoy, of Poole, for having with only one other man and a boy, captured a French privateer of very superior force; and similar rewards were, about the same time, bestowed upon William Williams, master of a fishing boat, of Whitsand bay, for having re-captured several coasting vessels, and on Peter Jolliffe, the master of a hoy, of Weymouth, for having attacked and driven a French privateer on the Island of Purbeck."

These circumstances show that the distribution of Medals for gallant conduct was not limited to the Officers and Seamen of the Royal Navy.

I regret to say that I am unable even to describe these Medals, far less show you specimens.

QUEEN ANNE.

During the reign of Queen Anne several gold Medals were awarded for naval services.

THE TORBAY MEDAL.

On the 11th of October, 1702, Admiral Sir George Rooke, made a successful attack upon the French and Spanish treasure Ships in Vigo Bay ; during this service the Torbay, Flag-ship of Vice Admiral Hobson, having broken the enemy's boom was grappled by a fire ship and set in flames, and so seriously was she damaged that one hundred of her crew perished.

In this emergency, Henry Gilbert the master, Elisha Dann the boatswain, and Benjamin Bryer gunner, of the Torbay, greatly distinguished themselves, and were severally presented with a gold Medal and chain, as will appear from the following letter, dated, Admiralty Office, 13th of March, 1703, desiring that a bill might be signed, on the Treasurer of the Navy, "for paying £240 to Isaac Newton, Esq., Master of the Mint, for enabling him to provide two Medals and two chains ; one for Henry Gilbert the master, and the other for Elisha Dann the boatswain, of the Torbay, in like manner as he had been directed to do for Benjamin Bryer the gunner of the said ship, as a reward to them for their good service in extinguishing the fire on board the Torbay at Vigo, when her Captain was blown overboard ; the said bill to be paid out of money received by the Treasurer of the Navy, for the tenths of Prizes appointed by a late Act of Parliament, for Medals and other rewards for Officers, Marines, and Seamen in Her Majesty's service."

I am unable to describe these Medals, nor do I know that a description exists of them.

In July, 1703, Rear Admiral Dilkes performed a gallant achievement in capturing several French vessels under the batteries near Granville, in Normandy. Campbell, in his Naval History, says, "The Queen, to testify her kind acceptance of so cheerful and so effectual a service, ordered gold Medals to be struck on this occasion, and delivered to the Rear Admiral and all his Officers, who certainly had very well deserved them."

LAMPRIERE MEDAL.

This Medal, which was presented to Captain James Lampriere, was of a large size. Upon the obverse is a bust of the Queen, with her usual titles. The reverse is occupied by the following inscription : "Her Majesty's reward to Captain James Lampriere, for his zeal to her service and his successful conducting ye Squadron commanded by Rear-Admiral Dilkes, who destroyed a considerable number of ye Enemy's Merchant Ships, under convoy of Men of War, on their own coast," and also the following motto : "True to my trust."

GEORGE I.

Although there were several naval expeditions during the reign of George the first, there is no record that any gold Medal was granted for distinguished services.

GEORGE II.

During the reign of George the Second a most interesting Medal was awarded to a certain Captain Callis.

CALLIS FIRE-SHIP MEDAL.

In June, 1742, Captain Callis, in the Duke fire-ship, entered the French port of St. Tropez, and burnt five Spanish Gallies that were lying there.

For this action Captain Callis was promoted to Post rank, and his Majesty was pleased to order that a gold chain and Medal be given him.

By an order in council, dated the 16th of December, 1742, Lieutenant Green, of the same vessel, was awarded £50, and the like reward was established on behalf of other Lieutenants of fire-ships for the future.

The Medal given to Captain Callis had on the obverse George the second attired as a Roman Emperor, with a baton in his left, and the Medal and chain in his right hand ; before him, in a kneeling position, is represented Captain Callis, with the words, "PRO TALIBUS AUSIS," the same as occur on the Naval Medallion of King Charles the second.

Upon the reverse is represented the exploit the Medal commemorates ; the exergue being inscribed, "OB. V. TRIREM. HISPAN. A. S. CALLIS. COMBUST., V. JVLII., MDCCXLII."

HORNBY MEDAL.

On the 18th of September, 1744, an Order in Council awarded Richard Hornby, master of the private Ship, "Wrightson and Isabella," a gold chain and Medal to the value of one hundred guineas, and £5 to each of the men, and £3 to each boy ; but for what service is not mentioned.

For the description of most of these latter Medals I am indebted to Sir Harris Nicholas' work on Honorary Medals ; many other Medals of a similar character were doubtless given, but as Sir Harris Nicholas states, "it contains all the information that an extensive enquiry has produced ; and it is only another justification of the remark, so often made, that historical literature, and more especially with relation to the Institutions of this Country, has been greatly neglected."

GEORGE III.

We now arrive at the most glorious epoch in the naval history of this Country.

George III. succeeded his Grandfather on the 25th of October, 1760, amidst the successes of a brilliant and glorious contest, in which the enemy had been overcome in every quarter of the Globe.

During the whole of his long reign the Nation was almost incessantly at war, the intervals of peace being few and far between.

The effect of this, however, was to raise our Naval Forces to a state of efficiency such as they had never before attained; and brought before the eyes of the world that glorious roll of naval heroes, who were at the same time the pride of their own country, and the admiration of others. Who can read of the gallant deeds and brilliant victories of Howe, Hotham, Bridport, St Vincent, Duncan, of the immortal Nelson, Saumarez, Collingwood, Duckworth and Dundonald, without feeling proud that he belongs to the Nation which gave birth to those renowned warriors?

During the first thirty years of this reign, there is no record that any Medals were bestowed for naval service.

LARGE GOLD MEDAL.

But on the 1st of June, 1794, the battle of Ushant, more popularly called that of the "Glorious first of June," was fought between the English Fleet under Earl Howe and the French under Vice Admiral Joyeuse, which terminated in the total defeat of the latter with the loss of seven ships of the line.

In recognition of this great service, it was determined to institute a Naval Medal, to reward the Admirals and Captains, who were conspicuous for courage and conduct in that battle, as well as those who might signalize themselves on future occasions.

The King being desirous to visit the Fleet on the first opportunity, but the Medals not being ready for distribution, he presented each of the following Officers with a massive gold chain: Admiral Earl Howe, Vice Admirals Greaves and Hood, Rear Admirals Bower, Gardner, and Pasley, and also the Captain of the fleet, Sir Roger Curtis; at the same time His Majesty appears to have intimated to these Officers as well as to the Captains of the Fleet, his intention to confer gold Medals upon them as soon as they were ready.

The Medals which were given to the flag Officers were of size $1\frac{1}{3}$; and had upon the obverse, a figure of victory, standing upon the prow of an antique galley, (as seen in several ancient Medals), placing a wreath of laurel on Britannia, who wears a helmet, and stands on the galley, having at her side a round shield charged with the crosses of

the Union Banner, her right foot resting upon a helmet, and holding a spear in her left hand.

On the reverse is a wreath of oak and laurel, which contains the name and rank of the Officer, the event for which the Medal was conferred, and the date.

The Admirals engaged in the battle of the first of June, 1794, wore their Medals attached to the gold chains which had been presented to them by the King, but all other Flag Officers, who subsequently received Medals, wore them to a white riband with dark blue edges from the neck.

Earl Howe's Medal was inscribed, "RICHARD EARL HOWE, ADMIRAL AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ON THE 1 OF JUNE, 1794. THE FRENCH FLEET DEFEATED."*

SMALL MEDAL.

The Medals given to the Captains were smaller, being size $9\frac{1}{2}$, the obverse and reverse being exactly the same as on the larger Medal, excepting that the wreath on the reverse is omitted.

It was worn, attached to a similar riband, with a gold buckle and swivel, between the third and fourth button-holes of their uniform coats.

These Medals were sent to the respective Officers on the 9th of November, 1796, accompanied by the following letter :

"Sir,—The King having been pleased to order a certain number of Gold Medals to be struck, in commemoration of the victory obtained by His Majesty's Fleet, under the command of Earl Howe, over that of the enemy, in the actions of the 29th of May and 1st of June, 1794, I am commanded by His Majesty to present to you one of the Medals above-mentioned, and signify His Majesty's pleasure that you should wear it when in your uniform, in the manner described by the direction, which (together with the Medal and ribband belonging to it) I have the honor to transmit to you. I am also commanded by His Majesty to acquaint you, that had it been possible for all the Officers on whom His Majesty is pleased to confer this mark of approbation, to attend personally in London, His Majesty would have presented the Medal to each of them in person; but that being, from various causes at this time impossible, His Majesty, in order to obviate all further delay, has therefore been pleased to direct them to be forwarded in this manner. Allow me to express the great satisfaction I feel in being made the channel of communicating to you so distinguished a mark of His Majesty's approbation.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

SPENCER."

In this paper it would be quite impossible for me to minutely describe all the glorious deeds that these Medals were given to commemorate, it must suffice if I give a mere summary of them.

* A fine specimen of this Medal was in the Ford collection.

They were granted for the following services, battles of Ushant, St. Vincent, Camperdown, and the Nile; Captain Hamilton of the Surprise, for re-capture of the Hermione frigate; battle of Trafalgar; action off Ferrol; 4th November, 1805; battle of St. Domingo; capture of the Island of Curacao; Sir Michael Seymour, of the Amethyst, for capture of Thetis; Captain Stewart of the Seahorse, for capture of the Badere Zaffere; Captain Mounsey of the Bonne Citoyenne, for capture of the Furieuse; action off Lissa; Captain Cole of the Caroline, for capture of the Island of Banda Neira; Captain Talbot of the Victorious, for capture of Le Rivoli; Captain Broke of the Shannon, for capture of the Chesapeake; Captain Palmer of the Hebrus, for capture of the L'Etoile; and lastly to Captain Hope of the Endymion, for capture of the President.

In all were given eight large Medals with chains, fifteen large Medals, and one hundred and seventeen small Medals.

These Medals were never given to an Officer of lower rank than that of Post Captain, with two exceptions, that of Lieutenant Pilford of the Ajax, and Lieutenant Stockham of the Thunderer, who each received the Medal for Trafalgar, their Captains being absent at the time.

I have great pleasure in showing you one of the smaller Medals for the battle of the Nile, from my own collection;* the Medal is inscribed, "THOMAS BOULDEN THOMPSON, ESQ., CAPTAIN OF H.M.S. THE LEANDER, ON THE 1 OF AUGUST, MDCCXCVIII. THE FRENCH FLEET DEFEATED."

Perhaps it may be of interest if I give a short account of the life of this distinguished Officer as taken from O'Byrne's Naval Biography.

Sir Thomas Boulden Thompson, who was born 28th of February, 1766, entered the Navy at an early age; after assisting in the Hycena, at the relief of Gibraltar, under Sir George Rodney; also at the defeat of Don Juan de Langara, and at the capture of Demerara, Berbice, and Essequibo; he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, 14th of January, 1782.

He was made commander in 1786, into the Nautilus Sloop on the coast of Africa; and was advanced to Post rank, 22nd November, 1790.

While commanding the Leander 50 he was wounded in the attack upon Teneriffe, in 1797, and fought with conspicuous valour at the battle of the Nile.

On 18th of August, 1798, he was captured by the French 74 Gun Ship, Generxue, at the end of a close and bloody conflict of six hours, in which the Leander, besides

* Now in the Eaton collection.

being totally dismasted and otherwise dreadfully shattered, sustained a loss, out of 283 men, of 35 killed and 57 (including himself) wounded ; and the enemy, whose force originally consisted of 936 men, of 100 killed and 188 wounded.

For the loss of his ship, according to the rules of the service, he was tried by Court Martial, and the Court delivered the following honourable sentence of acquittal :

"The Court having heard the evidence brought forward in support of Captain Thompson's narrative of the capture of the Leander, and having very maturely and deliberately considered the whole, is of opinion, that the gallant and almost unprecedented defence of Captain Thompson, of the Leander, against so superior a force as that of the Genereux, is deserving of every praise this country and this Court can give ; and, that his conduct, with that of the Officers and Men under his command, reflects not only the highest honour on himself and them, but on their country at large ; and the Court most honourably acquit Captain Thompson, his Officers, and Ship's Company, and he and they are hereby most honourably acquitted accordingly."

In 1799 he received the honour of Knighthood and a pension of £300 per annum.

At the Battle of Copenhagen, in 1801, he commanded the Bellona 74, and lost a leg, and his pension was increased in consequence to £500 ; an allowance which in 1815 was augmented to £700. After he left the Bellona he served for a considerable time in the Mary Yacht.

In 1806 he was appointed comptroller to the Navy and raised to the dignity of a Baronet ; he succeeded Sir John Colpoys as Treasurer of Greenwich Hospital in 1816 ; and was promoted Rear Admiral, 2nd January, 1809 ; a Vice Admiral, 4th June, 1814 ; a K.C.B., 2nd January, 1815 ; and a G.C.B., 4th September, 1822.

He represented the city of Rochester in Parliament for several years, and died 3rd March, 1828, at Hartshourne, Manor Place, Herts.

His only son, also an Admiral, died a few years ago.

WOOLDRIDGE MEDAL.

About this period, another small but very interesting Medal was given to a Captain Wooldridge.

During the night of the 11th of April, 1809, it was determined to attempt the destruction of the fire-ships of the French fleet in Aix Roads ; Commander Wooldridge, in H.M.S. Mediator, led the attack in a most undaunted and determined manner, broke the boom which had been placed for defence of the French ships and destroyed several of them.

For this signal service he was promoted to the rank of Post Captain, and in August, 1812, more than three years after the action, he received the following Medal.

Size $9\frac{1}{2}$; the obverse represents a ship on fire approaching a fleet, and breaking a boom; upon the reverse, within a wreath of laurel and oak, is the following inscription.
“CAPTAIN JAMES WOOLDRIDGE LED THE BRITISH FIRE-SHIPS WHEN FOUR FRENCH SAIL OF THE LINE WERE BURNT UNDER THEIR OWN BATTERIES IN AIX ROAD.”

The Medal was worn from the neck by a gold chain.

This unique and beautiful Medal was for years in the collection formed by the late Captain Hamilton.

DAVISON'S NILE MEDAL.

I now come to the last Medal that I shall describe this evening; possibly some may be of opinion that it ought not to have been included in this paper, as it was given by a private individual; I allude to the Nile Medal, given by Mr. Davison; but as it was much prized at the time by the recipients I will briefly notice it.

Mr. Davison was an old and attached friend of Lord Nelson; after the battle of the Nile Nelson appointed him sole Prize Agent. He determined in gratitude to present a Medal to each Officer and Man present on board the fleet on that memorable occasion. This was executed at a cost of near £2,000.

Captains of Ships received the Medal in gold, Lieutenants and Warrant Officers in silver, bronze gilt for Petty Officers, while the Seamen and Marines received the Medal in bronze.

The following is a description of the Medal: size $13\frac{1}{2}$: upon the obverse is represented a female figure upon a rock, in her right hand she holds an olive branch, in her left a shield, containing the bust of Lord Nelson, with the inscription, “EUROPE’S HOPE AND BRITAIN’S GLORY.”

Behind the figure is an Anchor, and the Sea, while above is the legend, “REAR-ADMIRAL LORD NELSON OF THE NILE.”

The reverse contains a representation of the battle, “ALMIGHTY GOD HAS BLESSED HIS MAJESTY’S ARMS.” In the exergue is, “VICTORY OF THE NILE, AUGUST 1, 1798.”

Upon the edge of the Medal is inscribed, “FROM ALEXANDER DAVISON, ESQRE., ST. JAMES’S SQUARE, A TRIBUTE OF REGARD.”

Many of the recipients had their Medals enclosed in glass cases, and wore them from the neck by a blue riband.

A fine specimen of this Medal in gold is in the collection of K. Stewart-Mackenzie,

Esq.; the Medal from my own collection, which I show you, is a Lieutenant's silver one, and is set in a gold frame under glass.*

The following extract from Hansard's Parliamentary debates may not be uninteresting, it is from a speech delivered by the Right Hon. William Watkin Wynn, in the House of Commons, relative to a Medal for Waterloo, 29th of June, 1815:

"To show how great was the value attached to such distinctions, Mr. Wynn related the following anecdote :

After the battle of the Nile, a patriotic individual caused a number of Medals to be struck and distributed among the seamen who were present in the conflict.

Mr. Wynn said he had heard from several Officers that the effect produced by them was of a most gratifying kind; and that several of these gallant men, when dying in a foreign land, had expressed in their last moments, the most anxious solicitude about the disposal of those Medals, the record of their services on that glorious day.

Some wished that it should be buried with them; others that it should be carefully transmitted to their families; but all of them placed more value upon that small Medal than on any other property they happened to possess."

Upon the conclusion of the war with France, at the general peace of 1815, it was determined that the issue of Gold Medals to superior Officers of the Navy should cease, and that such Officers should for the future be rewarded by a more liberal distribution of the Order of the Bath.

Besides the Medals that I have described this evening, many of course were awarded to our Naval forces by several foreign Governments for services rendered to their respective countries, as the Sultan's Gold Egypt 1801 Medal, the Palamos Medal, that for St. Jean D'Acre, and the Danube; but as I entered into them fully in my previous paper, I will not recapitulate their description.

I have now brought my paper to a conclusion; I have in a short time attempted to describe the most glorious events in our Naval History for the past three hundred years.

My task has been one of some difficulty, to condense in a short paper like the present one, events the narration of which might have occupied volumes.

I have endeavoured to show you how the honour of the British flag has been maintained for three centuries, that flag which Blake compelled foreign powers to respect, has been handed down to us inviolate, as generation succeeded generation, so did our Naval Heroes until they culminated in the gallant and immortal Nelson.

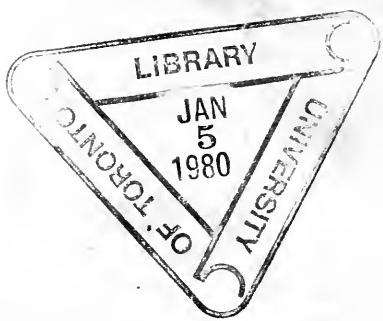
What an example he set this and all succeeding ages; is there even a child amongst us whose enthusiasm has not been roused as he reads that hero's last signal?—"ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN WILL DO HIS DUTY." We all knew how it was responded to, cheer after cheer greeted the signal. Do not those cheers even now re-echo in our hearts?

And what a glorious death terminated that life spent in the service of his country; we read that as he lay in the agony of his mortal wound, his last thoughts were for his country, and when hardly able to articulate he was heard to say, "Thank God, I have done my duty."

But even a more glorious history is connected with the flag that has "braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze;" and that is the freedom and civilization it everywhere proclaims! Let me terminate this paper in the words of the popular song, "The Englishman :"

"That flag may sink with a shot-torn wreck,
But never float o'er a slave."





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